

INTIMATION.
THE LATEST NOVELTIES
IN
XMAS AND NEW YEAR CARDS,
RECEIVED FROM LONDON.
TO-DAY.

ARE just in time to be despatched by the next FRENCH MAIL for XMAS or by the next ENGLISH MAIL for NEW YEAR'S DAY at Home by Parcel Post.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
HONGKONG DISPENSARY,
Hongkong, 13th November, 1885. 121

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.
Communications on Editorial matters should be addressed "The Editor," and those on business "The Manager," and not to individuals by name.

Correspondents are requested to forward their name and address with communications addressed to the Editor, not for publication, but as evidence of good faith.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, NOVEMBER 18TH, 1885.

With Burmah, the result towards which events have so long been working, has at length been declared. The first shot has been fired, the first fort bombarded, the first prize captured by the British forces. We sincerely hope that the hostilities will be of very brief duration. The war has not been declared against the Burmese people, but against the crime-stained monster, the sanguinary and brutal prince who oppresses them. Never, probably, was a war more justly undertaken than this, we trust the last, Burmese war. The British Government have been long-suffering and lenient to a fault in their treatment of King THESAW. Not only has this sovereign, ever since he ascended the throne in October, 1878, done everything in his power to prejudice British interests, but he has, by a series of atrocities, which have gained for him the reputation of a modern CAULON, alienated from himself the sympathy of every right-minded person. Moreover, by his cruel tyranny and gross extortions he has driven tens of thousands of his hapless subjects over the border to take refuge in British territory, while the veracity of his administration has given an asylum in his territory to numberless dacoits who have carried on their operations in Lower Burmah and retreated over the frontier when pursued by the Authorities. The foreign employés of the King have been kept without their salaries, foreign merchants and others have been subjected to squeezing and official robbery, and the King filled up the measure of his hostility to Great Britain by concluding agreements with the French, giving them virtual control of the revenues of his kingdom, thus creating interests in Upper Burmah antagonistic to those of India and British Burmah. Yet the British Government dealt most tenderly and considerately with this ill-disposed and most misguided monarch. The ultimatum forwarded to him only required that he should receive an English Envoy with a view to the settlement of the matters in dispute; that he should suspend action against those who should accept an English Resident at Mandalay under suitable conditions. This latter clause meant, no doubt, that he should conform his foreign policy to that of Great Britain. These liberal terms the ill-advised young despot refused, and it is to be hoped that his career as a sovereign will soon be cut short, and that he will be deprived for ever of the power he has so scandalously abused. The Bombay Burmah Trading Corporation; and that he should accept an English Resident at Mandalay under suitable conditions. This latter clause meant, no doubt, that he should conform his foreign policy to that of Great Britain. These liberal terms the ill-advised young despot refused, and it is to be hoped that his career as a sovereign will soon be cut short, and that he will be deprived for ever of the power he has so scandalously abused. The

British and foreign community. And it must be confessed that there is some reason in this view of the matter. We would, however, have preferred to see some other means adopted to make the Chinese bear their fair share of taxation, allowing *suzerainty* to remain untaxed—not only for the reason mentioned above, but also—because we fear its taxation will lead to smuggling, and we object to any legislation which will tend to increase State-created crime, or add to the work of the Police. Moreover, it will be next to impossible to prevent *suzerainty* being smuggled into the Colony from the opposite mainland without a large preventive service, the cost of maintaining which would swallow up the revenue derivable from the duty on the spirit. These considerations may perhaps not have been duly weighed by the framers of the Bill. We give expression to them now in order that they may not be overlooked, and believe that their importance will be admitted by our legislators, whatever their ultimate decision may be. The provision of the Spirit Bill which grants that the Spirit Farm is to apply solely to Chinese spirits, leaving the duty to be collected on foreign spirits by the Harbour Master, is a change that will be very acceptable to the British and foreign residents. The Spirit Farm as carried on in Singapore has always worked well, and, so far as we are aware, without annoyance to the foreign firms and residents. But there was a little doubt in some minds how far the Spirit Farm, if controlled by a Chinaman, would work here in relation to foreigners, and the alteration now made will be hailed as a satisfactory way of disposing of all danger of possible interference by any monopolist. It will no doubt also serve to give employment to the Assistant Harbour Master, a consideration of some importance, we imagine, to the official holding that *suzerainty* poses, though of course it will not be in his power to do so. We are, however, of the opinion that the amendment Bill is a provision that licences to distill spirits are to be issued by the Colonial Secretary instead of the Spirit Farmer, a decided improvement, and at the same time al-

most a necessary addition to the other alterations effected. The Bill in its new form will no doubt become law, and we hope that the expectations with regard to the revenue to be derived from it will be fully realized.

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LATEST TELEGRAMS.

LONDON, 15th November.

ENGLAND AND BURMAH.

COMMENCEMENT OF HOSTILITIES.

The King of Burmah having refused to comply with the British ultimatum, hostilities have commenced by the bombardment of a fort near the frontier and the capture of a Burmese ship-of-war by the British forces.

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Leave scenes. Rob Roy and his Highland hosts were not more dangerous to the interests of his lowland neighbours when he used to descend and attack them, carrying away the people and their chattels, than these Chins are at present in their raids upon the neighbouring Burmese. But the Burmese are, from the Chins' account of it, much more lawless for these four, and the present feeling between them is still Old China. I once made an instant visit to the Chin hills, and have seen the people at their homes, and during my short stay amongst them, I saw the picture as it is painted by them. Their version is, that their present predatory life has been forced upon them, and that they carry it on as reprisals for the previous acts of oppression and bad treatment by the Burmese. They said that excessive demands used to be made on them for the delivery of hill produce, such as horns and bear-skins and saffron in taxes of force. The Burmese started the kidnapping and selling these whom they captured into slavery, and they used to carry away the Chin women to such an extent, that they had to adopt the custom of disfiguring their faces, besides which the Burmese, they affirmed, were continually ravaging and robbing against them, killing off sometimes the whole of an entire hill with small-pox in one season!

My own experience is, that there is some ground for these charges, for some of the hills are peopled with civilized or friendly Chins; and when they came to the Burmese villages to exchange produce, they used to be kicked about, beaten and made a butt of sufficiently to expel the chin. I remember on one occasion two pretty girls from one of the hills having come down to a Burmese village with a basket to exchange for yarn. The present King had come nearly to the throne then, and the head of the Burmese village conceived the idea of detaining them and sending them these girls as a present to be placed in the western side of the palace, as the arrangement was known in the time of the old King. He expected in doing so to receive promotion and other special tokens of royal favour, and in order to cover his own nefarious acts, he trumped up some charge against the village to which the girls belonged, and the girls were said to be kept as hostages till the matter was settled. Old Chin women, with their faces tattooed with staff similar to Nubian blacking, who come down to the hills, are not only not disapproving, but the two Chin girls, who were kidnapped and intended as small wives for King Thein, were in my opinion both pretty and handsome. The captor took them to Mandalay, but, instead of being promoted to the order of the Tealay, he caught a Tarlar instead. The present Queen of Mandalay held strong and correct views on foreign alliances, and no sooner did she hear of the intended present than she sent the jungle officials to see if, instead of being sent away, the two girls were still at his hands, and when ordered to take himself and his henchmen away to his district, which he did, very thankful that the episode had not cost him his head. Should a party of Burmese and Chin happen to meet, a Chin is taken alive, his people have not option of releasing him or ransoming, but is invariably made the victim of a massacre.

There are several instances in point, and it was nearly the same. The Burmese think that by sending out some chasmatism in this way, they will deter the Chins, whereas my own experience is that such treatment only makes the Chins more savage, and increases the risks of the Burmese to acts of reprisal. There is a belt of country lying between the Chin hills and the first Burmese villages in the deserts, seen amid the slopes of the jungle, which was long ago used to be inhabited. This belt is becoming wider and wider, owing to the Burmese being forced backwards through fear of the Chins every year. The Burmese Government makes no attempt to punish the Chins for raiding on its subjects, and no effort to pacify them and bring them under subjection. The Woun of the Chins, who are great and aggravated, attack is made, sometimes gets a scratch, and sends it to retaliate, but the result is of the most perfidious nature and they appear to be powerless to grapple with and settle the question satisfactorily.

GERMAN AND BRITISH TRADE.

The *Reussel Consulaire Belge*, a collection of reports from Belgian Consuls in all parts of the world, contains this month a report by M. de Reinach, the consul at Frankfort, on German trade in 1884, in which he speaks of the effect that German competition is having on British manufacturers and commercial supremacy. "The general tendency," he says, "is to protect national labour in spite of the protective results of the system. Thus several industries protected by import duties and bonuses, have developed beyond measure, so much so that the consumption on the German markets falls far short of the production. Prices have gone down, and exports have sometimes been only possible at prices ruinous to the manufacturers." The sugar trade is more or less saturated; the metallurgical manufacturers have been compelled to work at a very small profit, only to find that they have a balance on the right side. The textile manufacturers are the only important branch of national industry that has given satisfactory results. Agriculture is struggling against foreign competition, not only that of the United States, but of Canada, Australia, and especially India. The Germans are impressed with the necessity of creating new outlets for their products, and are displaying the greatest anxiety in the German trade," says M. de Reinach, "is taking a departure, for which it is indebted to the Colonial policy of the Empire and to the decentralization of trans-Asian commerce. The German houses established in America, India, and China, were formerly compelled to have at the same time branch houses in England, the only great market for German products. This supremacy of Great Britain in the mercantile cities of Antwerp, Rotterdam, Havre, Hamburg, Genua, and Trieste have become serious competitors. Each of these ports has specialities of importance for which its market has a predilection over that of England, but besides these specialities, nearly every kind of goods is quoted and dealt in at such a rate that the public sales of London and Paris are not to be compared with them. The German colonial houses have been compelled to this decentralization, by sending their agents throughout Germany and to other countries, to sell cottons, wool, coffee, indigo, &c., directly to the large consumers."

The *Grasshopper*, the now "torpedo boat catcher," will steam faster than any torpedo vessel at present constructed. As to her draught of water, the author suggests that she will resemble those American vessels which draw so much as to hold up across the river mud if there had been a fairly heavy downpour.

"Mind the step," said an Englishman the other evening to a French friend with whom he was walking, in almost total darkness, on the Boulogne Pier, at the risk of falling into the water. "What step?" replied the intelligent Frenchman, "the step of the 'Grasshopper'." "Cela va sans dire," replied the Englishman.

The *Basin Express* has published an important notice concerning an expedition for founding commercial establishments in foreign countries under the auspices of the "Central Geographical Association of Berlin," and of the "Bank of Exportation." Many German merchants have determined to unite in furnishing a large vessel with a crew of a complete collection of merchants, and a quantity of merchandise, which will be forwarded by commercial representatives. This fitting exhibition will be received by the Mediterranean, and first visit the ports of Northern Africa, then those of the Levant, and finally the principal ports of Greece, Italy, and Spain. "This undertaking," says the *Export*, "will not be confined to finding the various ports and routes for certain German products, but will be extended to all countries with friendly German firms there established, with the intention, through them, of creating a constant influence on the market. In such ports where no German firms exist, representatives of the enterprise will be established, chosen from the persons employed in the expedition."

COMMERCIAL INTELLIGENCE.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH, 1885.

For British ship *Nouapata*, sailed on the 11th November. For New York, 7,741 tons, 5,063 packages firewood, 1,600 bales cassia, 1,477 packages palm leaf fans, 100 boxes orange, 1,000 boxes joss sticks, 1,200 boxes preserves, 48 boxes star anise, 9,735 packages *Daily Press* Office, 500 boxes tea, 100 boxes *D. B. DOBERCK*.

For steamship *Antwerp*, sailed on the 13th November. For London, 2,453 tons, 1,000 boxes *W. DOBERCK*.

For steamship *Philip*, sailed on the 13th November. For New York, 22 boxes silk, 400 rolls matting, and 150 packages sundries.

For steamship *Port Phillip*, sailed on the 13th November. For London, 2,453 tons, 1,000 boxes *W. DOBERCK*.

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